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FOREIGN OFFICE

May 31, 1962

My dear Ambassador:

Thank you for your letter of May 29 about your bird trouble.

The first thing I did was to refer the problem to the Foreign Secretary, as was proper. I am sorry to say that his reply was slightly less proper - though I would be grateful if you would not tell him that I said this as I understand they are looking for a good man for Ouagadougou. The reply is as follows:

> "The Ambassador must not blame the ducks. Procreation in England is always half-hearted in a cold late spring. (This rules does not apply in Scotland.)
>
> The remedy for the predatory crows is to fill an egg half full of castor-oil, but although this will solve one part of the Ambassador's problem it must I fear add to the 'defecatory nuisance'.
>
> Perhaps he will try other things. His most famous ancestor had a motto which sprang straight from nature.
>
> The only real remedy I can recommend is to ask the Foreign Secretary to shoot it."

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In case these remedies proved inadequate, I also consulted the Ministry of Works who not only are responsible for the Royal Parks but are used to dealing with birds if only by virtue of their responsibility for our statues. I enclose a copy of their reply from which you will see that, though there is no objection to your shooting crows in your garden, they will be very upset if you actually hit any. The Bird Committee would comment. No doubt Mr. Gault will be able to solve this little difficulty.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Samuel

PS I suppose you have tried a scare-crow?

SECRET

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General accepted the seriousness of the UK desire to join the Community, and had no specific objections to its doing so, provided it made no unreasonable demands. It remains to be seen what the present members, especially the French, might consider unreasonable.

Meanwhile, debate on this subject continues to rage in the press and the Parliament.

It is amazing how moderately hot weather elicits complaints from the British about heat waves. One of the papers this morning, commenting on the Derby, gravely observed that the temperature was torrid and uncomfortable, since the thermometer had soared toward 70 degrees.

Joyful Carmen Esnault-Pelterie arrived this evening to stay with us. Her son is coming over tomorrow for a dance we are all to attend. We had a rollicking dinner with her. Afterwards, E, Kay and myself went to the reception given by the President of the Republic of the Ivory Coast, M. Houphouet-Boigny, and his pretty 30-year old wife. This took place at the Mayfair Hotel. The Prime Minister and Lady Dorothy Macmillan were in the receiving line. The President has always enjoyed the reputation of being sensible and intelligent. There were hundreds of people there, and it was an enjoyable show. As usual, late to bed.

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June 7, 1962 - Thursday

I lunched with Drew Middleton at the Garrick Club. He thinks the chance of Great Britain being admitted to the Common Market is about an even-money bet. He does not believe the recent by-elections, in which the Conservatives have made a sorry showing, are necessarily indicative of what will happen when the next general election occurs, since the timing of it will be set by the Government. Drew is going home shortly, for a three-month vacation.

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